

Read “The Possibility of Evil” by Shirley Jackson for next class (Thursday November 6th) and answer the following discussion questions:

1. What is Mrs. Strangeworth’s motivation in sending out these letters? What is she trying to accomplish?
2. What is the symbolism behind the roses? What about the letters?
3. Why did Shirley Jackson title her story *The Possibility of Evil*?
4. Does Miss Strangeworth grow or change a person over the course of the story?
5. How is Miss Strangeworth’s standing in the community posed to change at the end of the story? Do you think she will feel personally responsible for what has happened to her roses?
6. This story is about the circularity of evil. Agree or disagree
7. How has our own desire for pleasantness and obsession with appearances blinded us to the evil in our own lives?